

OTIPEMISIWAK

February 2017

Express



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is my honour to welcome you to the Métis Nation of Alberta. Our strength comes from our community which is why we strive to keep our members informed about news, events, and opportunities. As a member, you can stay connected by browsing our website (www.albertametis.com), visiting our Facebook page (bit.ly/AlbertaMetis), or opting in to receive email newsletters by emailing communications@metis.org. Our quarterly magazine, Otipemisiwak, is available on our website and in print. Print copies of the publication can be picked up at our provincial head office in Edmonton as well as at our regional offices located in Lac La Biche, Bonnyville, Calgary, Edmonton, Slave Lake, and Peace River.

Kind Regards,

Audrey Poitras
President, Métis Nation of Alberta

News

HISTORIC MILESTONES FOR MÉTIS RIGHTS IN ALBERTA

The past few weeks have seen significant milestones for Métis rights in Alberta. For the first time in MNA history, MNA has negotiated and signed a Memorandum of Understanding to Advance Reconciliation with the Government of Canada (MOU). The MOU establishes a time-limited exploratory discussions table between the MNA and Canada with the goal of arriving at a mutually-agreeable framework agreement by September 2017. The anticipated framework agreement would establish a formal negotiations process based on mutually agreeable subject matters, including Métis self-government, lands, rights and outstanding claims against the Crown.



For more information, please visit our website at albertametis.com, or contact Sonia Millman at smillman@metis.org.

Days after Métis Nation of Alberta concluded a historic MOU with the Government of Canada, MNA signed a groundbreaking Provincial Framework Agreement. Deriving many of its mandates from the Supreme Court of Canada's Daniels Decision, section 35 of the Canadian Constitution, and *United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNRIP), the collaborative agreement sets a promising precedent for the development of Métis rights. The Framework Agreement is an important step towards reconciliation, and as such, stipulates MNA's right to participate and collaborate with the Government of Alberta on decisions that will affect the well-being of its members. For more information on the Provincial Framework Agreement, please visit our website or contact Marilyn Lizee at mlizee@metis.org.

| Website: www.albertametis.com | Facebook: bit.ly/AlbertaMetis |
| Email: Communications@metis.org |



Upcoming Events



MNA BUSINESS MIXER

The Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) Sustainable Development and Industry Relations (SDIR) Team is thrilled to announce our 4th Annual Provincial Business Mixer to take place on Thursday, March 23, 2017 at the Ramada Hotel & Conference Centre at 11834 Kingsway Ave NW in Edmonton, AB.

Thursday March 23, 2017
BUSINESS MIXER ADMISSION IS FREE TO MNA MEMBERS!

Seminar: 9 am - 11:30 am

Trade Show (\$250 Table): 1 pm - 5 pm

Banquet (\$65 per person or \$500 Table): 6 pm

Sponsorship Opportunities Available

Sponsorship Deadline:

Feb. 28, 2017

Trade Show Booth Deadline:

March 3, 2017

RSVP:

Katie Suvanto

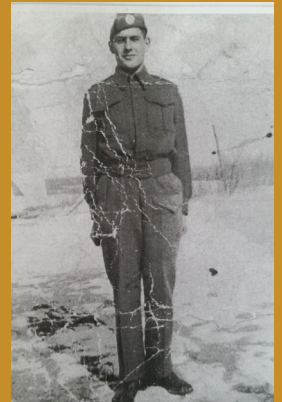
ksuvanto@metis.org

780-341-1447



CALLING ALL MÉTIS VETERANS

If you, or a member of your family, is a Métis Veteran, we want to hear your story. In an effort to honour our Métis heroes, the MNA is working towards creating a veterans' monument at Métis Crossing that will symbolize the sacrifices and accomplishments of our many veterans throughout the decades. The names of Métis veterans we gather will be placed on the monument so that their history and contributions will be preserved for future generations.



Please contact Erika Voaklander to share your story at evoaklander@metis.org, or call 780-455-2200.

SENOIRS' AND YOUTH SYMPOSIUM

Friday, March 24 - Saturday, March 25
Edmonton, Alberta

Join Métis Nation of Alberta for a weekend of building relationships across generations! Starting Friday, March 24 at 5:00 pm, MNA head office, located at 100-11738 Kingsway Ave, will serve stew while offering bannock making lessons. On Saturday, March 25, at the Ramada Conference Center 11834 Kingsway NW, MNA will host a symposium that will include presentations on Métis rights, dinner, open mic jam, jigging lessons, photo booth with props, and much more!



For those looking for help with taxes, MNA encourages you to bring your tax information, as there will be a third party present to assist. In hopes of establishing a definition of "Métis Elder," MNA also encourages attendees to bring their definition of Métis elder for our consideration.

We ask that everyone contact Christine Dyck to RSVP at cdyck@metis.org, or at (780) 455 -2200.

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